



COMMISSION NEWS

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SECURITIES REGULATORS LAUNCH FRAUD AWARENESS QUIZ

PHOENIX – Are you at risk of becoming a victim of financial fraud? A simple quiz released today by Arizona securities regulators, in conjunction with regulators from other states and Canada, will help answer that question, while testing – and increasing – your financial knowledge.

The Securities Division of the Arizona Corporation Commission caps off Arizona Savings & Investment Month by releasing the Interactive Investment Fraud Awareness quiz. The quiz is designed to test your knowledge of investment fraud and to encourage you to watch out for warning signs of fraud. View the quiz at www.ccsd.cc.state.az.us and watch the “ticker tape message” for the Interactive Investment Fraud Awareness quiz or go to www.nasaa.org.

Arizona is joined by the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) and the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) in an annual investor outreach initiative designed to increase the education levels of investors throughout North America.

The 12-question quiz takes about 10 minutes to complete. Your results, along with your score, are available as soon as you complete the quiz. The quiz covers topics such as investment risk, fraudulent products, how to deal with a securities salesperson and the role of government securities regulators. A compilation of the overall results of the quiz will be published at a later date.

“Once someone has committed fraud and taken your money, it becomes very hard to get that money back,” says Commission Chairman Marc Spitzer. “Someone who is good at stealing your money through fraud is probably also pretty good at spending your money – or hiding it from the government. That’s why it’s so important for

every investor to be on the lookout for fraud and know who to call.”

“We want to give you the tools you need to protect yourself,” said Commissioner Jim Irvin. “This quiz not only tests your current knowledge of scams and frauds, but is designed to increase your financial literacy at the same time.”

Chairman Spitzer reinforced the need for investors to contact their securities regulator to check out investments and promoters prior to handing over any money.

“The disciplinary records of all registered salespeople, brokers or dealers are available to you,” Spitzer explained. “Our staff can help confirm that investment products and salespeople are properly registered. One quick call to the Commission could save you a lot of grief down the road.”

You can call the Securities Division at 602-542-4242 from inside the Phoenix metro area. Outside Phoenix, use the Securities Division’s toll free line at 1-877-811-3878. Aside from the quiz, many other educational resources are available through the Division’s website: www.ccsd.cc.state.az.us.

In the U.S., the Facts on Savings and Investing Campaign took place throughout the month of April. The campaign is in its sixth year and consists of various educational programs focused on finances, saving and investing. The community outreach of the Arizona Corporation Commission’s Securities Division was extensive during the 2003 Campaign as it educated investors of all ages about investing and avoiding investment fraud.

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